In the Claims

1-9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) A method for identifying vectors containing a DNA insert, comprising the steps of:

subjecting a plurality of vectors to insertion conditions under which an insert is placed in at least some of said vectors, wherein said vectors have a first copy number if no insert occurs and a second copy number if ~~said~~ an insert occurs; and

identifying at least some vectors containing an insert by screening said vectors for said second copy number.

11. (previously presented) The method of Claim 10, wherein said vectors comprise hybridization sites for insert sequencing primers, said hybridization sites for insert sequencing primers being positioned so as to allow the sequencing of said DNA insert.

12. (previously presented) The method of Claim 10, wherein said vectors comprise hybridization sites for insert amplifying primers, said hybridization sites for insert amplifying primers being positioned so as to allow the amplification of said DNA insert.

13. (currently amended) The method of Claim 10, wherein said vectors comprise a single stranded origin of replication, said single stranded origin ~~or~~ of replication permitting the isolation of said vector in a single stranded form.

14. (previously presented) The method of Claim 10, wherein said vectors containing a DNA insert are present at a low copy number.

15. (previously presented) The method of Claim 10, wherein said first copy number is a high copy number and said second copy number is a low copy number.

16. (previously presented) The method of Claim 10, wherein said vectors comprise at least one copy number indicator for indicating the copy number of said vectors in cells.

17. (previously presented) The method of Claim 16, wherein said copy number indicator comprises a selectable marker.

18. (previously presented) The method of Claim 10, wherein said screening step comprises determining the copy number of a vector.

19. (previously presented) A method to determine the copy number of a vector comprising a truncated lacZ gene, said method comprising the steps of:

introducing said vector into a host cell, wherein said truncated lacZ gene, when present at a high copy number in said host cells, confers dark blue coloration to said host cells grown on a medium containing Xgal and IPTG, and wherein said truncated lacZ gene, when present at a low copy number in said host cells, confers light blue coloration to said host cells grown on said medium; and

determining the color of the host cells when the host cells are grown on said medium.

20. (previously presented) A method to determine the copy number of a vector comprising the strA+ gene, said method comprising the steps of:

introducing said vector into a streptomycin resistant host cell, wherein said host cells are unable to grow in the presence of streptomycin when the strA gene is present at a high copy number and wherein said host cells are able to grow in the presence of streptomycin when the strA gene is present at a low copy number; and

determining the ability of said host cells to grow on a medium containing streptomycin.

21. (new) The method according to claim 20, wherein said vector further comprises a high copy number origin of replication and a low copy number origin of replication.

22. (new) The method according to claim 21, wherein said high copy number origin of replication contains one or more cloning sites.

23. (new) The method according to claim 20, wherein said vector comprises additional selectable markers.

24. (new) The method according to claim 19, wherein said truncated LacZ gene comprises SEQ ID NO: 7.

25. (new) The method according to claim 24, wherein said truncated LacZ gene comprises nucleotides 1-292 of SEQ ID NO: 7.

26. (new) The method according to claim 19, wherein said truncated LacZ gene comprises nucleotides 1-392 of the LacZ gene sequence.